

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /126 W

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P 010816Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6719

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PASS DOD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CB, US

SUBJ: QUESTION OF CORRUPTION IN CAMBODIA AND CONGRESSIONAL
ATTITUDES

REF: A. STATE 132716

B. STATE 134396

C. PHNOM PENH 8634

D. PHNOM PENH 8638

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF STATEMENT
ISSUED BY PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ON JUNE 29 ON
SUBJECT OF GKR'S EFFORTS TO CORRECT WASTE, THEFTS
AND OTHER ABUSES.

BEGIN TEXT.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

PHNOM PENH (AKP)

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DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS

REDOUBLED ITS EFFORTS TO ASSURE THE RATIONAL USE OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES AS WELL AS THOSE PROVIDED BY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR WAR EFFORT BETTER. ALTHOUGH CERTAIN PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED, MANY POSITIVE RESULTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED AND ARE WORTHY OF BEING KNOWN BY THE PUBLIC.

IN THIS DOMAIN, THE GOVERNMENT IS BEING CALLED UPON TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

A. TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF WASTE;

B. TO REDUCE PUBLIC EXPENDITURES TO THE STRICT MINIMUM NECESSARY, IN NATIONAL CURRENCY AS WELL AS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE;

C. TO USE MATERIEL, EQUIPMENT, ARMAMENTS, AND MUNITIONS RATIONALLY;

D. TO CURB THEFTS AND DIVERSIONS IN ALL THEIR FORMS.

THE BALANCE SHEET IS ENCOURAGING AND IS MANIFESTED IN MANY DOMAINS, NOTABLY IN THE FOLLOWING SECTORS;

1. PAYMENT OF TROOPS - THE QUESTION OF THE PAYMENT OF OUR TROOPS WHICH, IN THE PAST, GAVE RISE TO HARSH CRITICISMS ON THE PART OF THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS, ESPECIALLY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE "PHANTOM" SOLDIERS, HAS NEARLY ENTIRELY BEEN RESOLVED THANKS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SYSTEM OF PAYMENT. THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED MOBILE TEAMS OF PAYMASTERS REQUIRE EACH SOLDIER, AT THE TIME OF PAYMENT, TO SIGN THE PAY REGISTER HIMSELF INSTEAD OF THE RESPONSIBLE COMMANDERS WHO FORMERLY DID SO IN THE NAME OF THE UNITS PLACED ADMINISTRATIVELY AND MILITARILY UNDER THEIR CONTROL.

IN ADDITION, A MODERN SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION OF OUR SOLDIERS HAS BEEN INAUGURATED AND PUT INTO FORCE.

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THE COMBINATION OF THESE SYSTEMS, WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE FOR A MODERN ARMY, HAS PERMITTED US TO ELIMINATE THE FRAUDULENT PRACTICES HERETOFORE CRITICIZED.

OBSERVERS OF GOOD FAITH HAVE ADMITTED THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR ARMY HAS MADE UNDENIABLE PROGRESS IN THIS DOMAIN.

2. UTILIZATION OF FUELS - AS REGARDS THE IMPROPER USE OF FUELS, WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF SEVERE REMARKS BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING A RECENT DEBATE, WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT SPECIAL EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO DO AWAY WITH THE EVI AT ITS SOURCE. A CONTRACT WITH A LARGE PETROLEUM COMPANY IS IN PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WITH A VIEW TOWARD CHANGING THE SYSTEM OF SUPPLY OF FUELS. THE PRINCIPLE IS TO BE THAT THE CHOSEN COMPANY WILL ITSELF SUPPLY GASOLINE DIRECTLY TO OUR AIRCRAFT.

THIS WILL PREVENT ANY ATTEMPT AT POSSIBLE ABUSES TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE STATE.

MOREOVER, THE RESPONSIBLE PARTIES IMPLICATED IN THE AFFAIR OF THE DIVERSION OF AVIATION GASOLINE WHO WERE DISCOVERED TOWARD THE END OF LAST APRIL HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND ARE BEING HELD AT THE EMG OF THE FANK AWAITING A MORE THOROUGH INQUIRY. SINCE MAY 21, THANKS TO THE RADICAL MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN, DIVERSIONS ARE NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

3. UTILIZATION OF MUNITIONS - THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE FANK HAS TAKEN A SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED TO ASSURE THE RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF MUNITIONS. IN ADDITION TO FORMAL INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE COMBAT UNITS, THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN PUT IN CONCRETE FORM BY FREQUENT INSPECTIONS WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE AND IMPROMPTU. ALL STOCKS OF MUNITIONS VERIFIED AS BEING IN EXCESS BY THE INSPECTION TEAM

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ARE WITHDRAWN TO BE RETURNED TO THE CENTRAL DEPOTS.

IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF MUNITIONS, ESPECIALLY OF LARGE CALIBER AMMUNITION, REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVEL DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY (600 TONS PER DAY), WHEN THE BATTLE OF THE DRY SEASON WAS RAGING, IN ORDER TO SMASH THE ENEMY ASSAULT AIMED AT SEIZING THE CAPITAL. ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS, SINCE THE MONTH OF MARCH, CONSUMPTION HAS STABILIZED AT BETWEEN 400 AND 500 TONS PER DAY. HOWEVER, THE OFFENSIVES UNDERTAKEN BY OUR FANK SINCE JUNE 1974 HAVE SLIGHTLY INCREASED CONSUMPTION.

IN ADDITION TO THE QUANTITIES CONSUMED, THE LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE FOLLOWING MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

- AIR DROPS LOST AT POSITIONS BEING ATTACKED OR ENCIRCLED;
 - THE EVACUATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE; AND
 - IN CERTAIN RARE CASES THEFTS COMMITTED BY CERTAIN DISHONEST MILITARY PERSONNEL. ON THIS SUBJECT, THE HIGH
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COMMAND HAS NOT YET GATHERED ALL THE CONCRETE EVIDENCE BUT DRACONIAN MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE, WHO ARE RECEIVING THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENTS.

4. OTHER DOMAINS - AUSTERITY IS BEING IMPOSED PROGRESSIVELY IN OTHER SECTORS OF NATIONAL ENDEAVOR:

A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AT OUR DIPLOMATIC POSTS AND IN THE OFFICES OF MILITARY ATTACHES ABROAD.

IN SHORT, THE GOVERNMENT, ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT ORDER IS THE RULE IN ALL ITS CIVIL AND MILITARY BRANCHES, HAS TAKEN RADICAL MEASURES FOR THE PUBLIC WELFARE OF THE NATION.

PHNOM PENH, JUNE 29, 1974.

END OF TEXT.

2. STATEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN AKP BULLETIN OF
JUNE 29. FRENCH TEXT BEING POUCHED EA/LC. WE ARE MAKING
ENGLISH VERSION AVAILABLE TO PRESS CORRESPONDENTS HERE.

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS TEXT ALSO TO AMBASSADOR
UM SIM, AS IT WAS HIS INITIATIVE THAT GOT BAILL ROLLING.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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